

Cycling Safaris

Cyclade Islands 8 days/7 nights Bike and Boat trip Guided Tour 2010



The Cyclades, which comprise more than 30 islands, were the cradle of the first European civilised society 5,000 years ago. It is also here that Greece shows its most unadulterated side in all its variety: Gleaming white cubic houses with blue shutters and labyrinth lanes give the typical architectonic flavour to the island towns. The mostly ragged coastlines show impressive geological formations, turquoise-blue sea and fantastic sand beaches. Experience the fascinating mixture between antiquity and modern times on your motorized sailing ship or the bike and imbibe the beauty of the central archipelago of the Greek Aegean.

TOUR ITINERARY

Day 1 (Sat) Boarding in Piraeus (Marina Zeas)

Individual journey to Athens airport and collective transfer to Marina Zeas, the yacht harbour of Piraeus, only 25 km (15 mi.) from Athens airport. Check-in from 2 p.m. on the ship. Dinner on board. Overnight stay in Piraeus.

Day 2 (Sun) Kythnos Island (Cycle route approx. 25 km/15 mi.)

Early in the morning the boat takes you to Kythnos Island, which was famous for its cheese and honey since ancient times. The first cycling tour, which will start in the harbour of Merichas and will first lead us to the capital Chora, offers lots of scenic views to the coastline. Chora is an appealing village, situated on a high plateau. Its angular alleys are decorated with painted flowers and geometric patterns. Finally we will reach the bathing resort Loutra. Its thermal springs are said to have curing energy. Afterwards we return to Merichas, where we can spend the evening in one of the cozy tavernas.

Day 3 (Mon) Seriphos Island (Cycle route approx. 35 km/22 mi.)

In the morning the Panagiota takes us to Seriphos, a small island far from the tourist track, with deep valleys, countless bays and coves and lots of beautiful sandy beaches. From the harbour town of Livadi we will cycle along a serpentine road to the main town of Seriphos, whose cube form houses nestle along a mountain ridge high above the sea. We will continue on through untouched landscape to the Byzantine monastery of the Archangel Michael. We will return to Livadi along a panoramic road on the East coast. In the afternoon the ship will bring us to Siphnos, where we can relax at the beautiful beach. Overnight stay in Kamares.

Day 4 (Tue) Siphnos Island (Cycle route approx. 20 km/12 mi.)

The island of Siphnos, which is famous for its ceramic artwork, is only inhabited away from the coast, as its coast drops mainly steeply into the sea. The cycling tour begins in the harbour of Kamares. The route leads through a green, hilly terraced landscape to the central highlands with the island's capital Kastro, which is a defensive settlement built on a steep cliff face and has been a listed and protected town since 1975. In the afternoon the ship will bring us to Syros, where we can round off the day in one of the numerous cafes on the spacious harbour promenade.

Day 5 (Wed) Syros (Cycle route approx. 30 km/19 mi.) and Mykonos Island

Syros is the capital town of the Cyclades. The town of Ermoupolis offers visitors an unforgettable view upon arrival: The town which is built on two hills is different from the other Cycladic towns. Pastel coloured houses, many of which have classical facades dominant the townscape. We will cycle along the coast of Syros which is full of bays and coves along the entire southern half of the island to the beautiful beach of Galissas and then past the convent of Saint Barbara back to Ermoupolis. In the afternoon we will continue by boat to Mykonos, where the picturesque main town with its famous windmills and its white cube form houses invites visitors to stroll through it. With a bit of luck we may even see the mascot of Mykonos in the maze of laneways, the pelican Petros.

Day 6 (Thu) Delos Island and Tinos Island (Cycle route approx. 20 km/12 mi.)

In the morning we have the chance to visit the important ancient sites on the island of Delos, where according to Greek mythology the god Apollo and his twin sister Artemis were born. After lunch we will crossover to Tinos. There we will first visit the famous Evangelistria church in Tinos town. Today's bike tour takes us along a high road to the mountain village of Tarambados, a village full of walled dove towers with their filigree architecture, which represent remnants from Venetian times. Overnight stay in Tinos town.

Day 7 (Fri) Kea Island (Cycle route approx. 22 km/14 mi.)

In the morning the ship will bring us to Kea. The starting point for the tour of Kea, the most westerly inhabited Cyclade island, is the wonderful natural harbour of Korissia. From here we will begin our cycle tour to the white beach of Otzias, where the Mediterranean will tempt you to a refreshing swim. The next stop is the picturesque main town of Ioulis which is situated in the mountains and has the main attraction on the island: The smiling lion of Kea which was chiselled from stone in the 6th century B.C. Last sail to Piraeus and overnight stay in Piraeus.

Day 8 Disembarkation

Guests disembark after breakfast on board followed by individual departure or guests may extend their stay in Athens by a week.

Changes: The Cyclades are relatively susceptible to wind. Normally this results in only a minor modification of the tour route. However by strong wind conditions the travel route may markedly differ from the planned route. Our substitute tour leads you into the Argosaronic Gulf, one of the most historic regions of Greece: We will cross between the Greek mainland and the Peloponnesian and discover the islands of Aigina, Poros, Hydra, Spetses and the Methana peninsula. A highlight of this journey is a visit to the ancient Epidauros with the best preserved theatre in Greece.

TOUR PRICE DATES

€1290 per person sharing (below Deck)
€1340 per person sharing (above Deck)
€1935 for single occupancy (below Deck)
€1985 for single occupancy (above Deck)

GROUP TOUR DATES 2010

May 15, 22
September 4, 11, 18, 25

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE TOUR PRICE

Services included:

- 8-day-trip on a two-masted motor yacht with a crew of four
- 7 nights on a motor yacht in a double cabin with shower/WC
- 5 x half-board and 2x full-board on the ship
- Bed linen and towels
- 6 guided cycling tours on the different islands
- Rental 21-speed trekking bicycle with bicycle bag
- Overview-maps for the daily tours on board
- Collective return transfer between Athens airport and Marina Zeas (Pireas) (only on embarkation and disembarkation day)
- All entries to museums and archaeological sites (group visits)
- English-speaking tour guide

Additional costs:

- Flight to Athens
- Drinks on board (tally sheet; to be paid to the captain)
- Meals ashore
- Tips for crew and tour-guides

ACCOMMODATION

The ship PANAGIOTA

The Panagiota, our latest finding in Greece, is an affectionately restored two-masted motor yacht, which is 23 ft. wide and 102 ft. long. It was built in 1990 and modernized in 2001 in conformity with the requirements of cruises. 6 cabins below deck and 4 cabins above deck are at the guests' disposal. All cabins are air-conditioned and equipped with a French bed (4,6 ft. wide) , one single bed and private shower and toilet. There is room for all guests in the spacious saloon to have the meals, to regenerate or to spend some time with new friends. When the weather conditions are fine the guests can have the meals outside on the shaded rear deck.

The spacious sun deck, equipped with cosy mats, invites to have a sun bath and to relax.



Catering:

The cook on board is a member of the crew and prepares the breakfast and one or two warm meals a day. The catering starts with the dinner on the arrival day and ends with the breakfast on the departure day.

FITNESS

The bike routes have a length of 20 to 60 km and lead through hilly or mountainous areas. Some uphill stretches are included. The roads are mostly asphalted. You can always choose to skip a bike tour and spend the time sunbathing on the ship instead. Helmets are required on all cycle tours. Helmets are available on board in limited number (on request).

We believe that only children in a good physical condition and of a minimum age of 10 and previous bicycle tour experience are able to master the bike-tours on their own strength. Please note that the minimum height for a rental bike is 1.40 m (4.6 ft.)